

## Office of the Secretary, HUD

## § 15.21

would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and, if so

(6) *The primary interest in disclosure:* Whether the magnitude of the identified commercial interest of the requester is sufficiently large, in comparison with the public interest in disclosure, that disclosure is *primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.*

[53 FR 37549, Sept. 27, 1988]

### § 15.17 Charges for interest and for unsuccessful searches; Utilization of Debt Collection Act.

(a) *Charging interest.* HUD will begin assessing interest charges on an unpaid bill starting on the 31st day following the day on which the billing was sent. A fee received by HUD, even if not processed, will suffice to stay the accrual of interest. Interest will be at the rate prescribed in section 3717 of title 31 U.S.C. and will accrue from the date of the billing.

(b) *Charge for unsuccessful search.* Ordinarily no charge for search time will be assessed when the records requested are not found or when the records located are withheld as exempt. However, if the requester has been notified of the estimated cost of the search time and has been advised specifically that the requested records may not exist or may be withheld as exempt, fees shall be charged.

(c) *Use of Debt Collection Act of 1982.* When a requester has failed to pay a fee charged in a timely fashion (*i.e.*, within 30 days of the date of the billing), HUD may, under the authority of the Debt Collection Act and part 17, subpart C of this title, use consumer reporting agencies and collection agencies, where appropriate, to recover the indebtedness owed the Department.

[53 FR 37549, Sept. 27, 1988]

### § 15.18 Advance payments.

(a) HUD may not require a requester to make an advance payment, *i.e.*, payment before work is commenced or continued on a request, unless:

(1) HUD estimates or determines that allowable charges that a requester may be required to pay are likely to exceed \$250. Then, HUD will notify the requester of the likely cost and obtain satisfactory assurance of full payment

where the requester has a history of prompt payment of FOIA fees, or require an advance payment of an amount up to the full estimated charges in the case of requesters with no history of payment; or

(2) Where a requester has previously failed to pay a fee charged in a timely fashion (*i.e.*, within 30 days of the date of the billing), HUD may require the requester to pay the full amount owed plus any applicable interest as provided by § 15.17(a) or demonstrate that he has, in fact, paid the fees, and to make an advance payment of the full amount of the estimated fee before HUD begins to process a new request or a pending request from that requester.

(b) When HUD acts under paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section, the administrative time limits prescribed in subsection (a)(6) of the FOIA (*i.e.*, 10 working days from receipt of initial requests and 20 working days from receipt of appeals from initial denial, plus permissible extensions of these time limits) will begin only after HUD has received fee payments described above.

(c) Where it is anticipated that either the duplication fee individually, the search fee individually, or a combination of the two exceeds \$25.00 over and above the free search time and duplication costs, where applicable, and the requesting party has not indicated in advance a willingness to pay so high a fee, the requesting party shall be promptly informed of the amount of the anticipated fee or such portion thereof as can readily be estimated. The notification shall offer the requesting party the opportunity to confer with agency representatives for the purpose of reformulating the request so as to meet that party's needs at a reduced cost.

[53 FR 37549, Sept. 27, 1988]

### § 15.21 Exemptions authorized by 5 U.S.C. 552.

A requested record shall not be withheld from inspection or copying unless it both: Comes within one of the classes of records exempted by 5 U.S.C. 552; and there is need in the public interest to withhold it. In determining the scope of the classes of records described in paragraph (a) of this section,

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the Attorney General's Memorandum on the Public Information Act, June 1967, will be used as a guide.

(a) The classes of records authorized to be exempted from disclosure by 5 U.S.C. 552 are those which concern matters that are:

(1) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and are in fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;

(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Department;

(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute;

(4) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this section, trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;

(5) Interagency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the Department;

(6) Personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(7) Records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information:

(i) Could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings;

(ii) Would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(iii) Could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(iv) Could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, including a state, local or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source;

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(v) Would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or

(vi) Could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

(8) Contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the Department in connection with its responsibility for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or

(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

(b) Any reasonably segregable portion of a record shall be provided to any person requesting such record after deletion of the portions which are exempt under this section.

(c) Subject to the following conditions, financial and related information submitted by a mortgagor and contained in Form HUD-92410 (Statement of Profit and Loss), or a HUD-approved substitute form that the mortgagor may have submitted, may be disclosed to eligible potential purchasers of HUD-held multifamily mortgages.

(1) Information from Form HUD-92410 concerning a project may be made available in conjunction with the sale of a HUD-held mortgage covering that project conducted under the authority of sections 207 (k) and (l) of the National Housing Act, 12 U.S.C. 1713 (k) and (l), or section 7(i)(3) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(i)(3).

(2) The release of this information by HUD to eligible potential purchasers shall be limited to the period specified by HUD for the mortgage sale.

(3) Eligible potential purchasers who have received this information shall agree to keep the information confidential, to disclose the information only to potential investors in the mortgage, to use the information for the sole purpose of their evaluation of the mortgage in connection with the mortgage sale, and to follow disclosure procedures for that sale that have been established by the Secretary.

(4) Any disclosure by eligible potential purchasers to potential investors in the mortgage shall be limited to the period specified by HUD for the mortgage sale. Similar, potential investors in the mortgage shall agree to keep the information confidential and to use the information for the sole purpose of their evaluation of the mortgage in connection with their investment decision. In addition, potential investors in the mortgage may not disclose the information to other entities, unless the disclosure is necessary for the investor's evaluation of the mortgage, is in accordance with disclosure procedures for the specific sale that have been established by the Secretary, and is limited to the period specified by HUD for the mortgage sale. Any potential purchaser is responsible for notifying potential investors in the mortgage who receive this information from that entity of the investors' obligations under this section.

(5) Disclosure of information from Form HUD-92410 by an eligible potential purchaser or by a potential investor (who has received the information from a potential purchaser and has been notified by that entity of its obligations under paragraph (c)(3) of this section) that is not in accordance with this section is a violation of this regulation and may subject the entity making the unauthorized disclosure to administrative sanctions under 24 CFR part 24.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2502-0052)

[40 FR 48123, Oct. 14, 1975, as amended at 51 FR 44286, Dec. 9, 1986; 60 FR 11903, Mar. 3, 1995]

## Subpart D [Reserved]

## Subpart E—Procedures for Requesting Access to Records

### § 15.41 Requests for records.

(a) Requests for copies of records may be made in person during normal business hours at information centers listed in § 15.31 or by mail addressed to such centers. Although oral requests may be honored, a requester may be asked to submit his request in writing.

(b) Each request must reasonably describe the desired record including the name, subject matter, and number or date, where possible, so that the record may be identified and located. In order to enable the Department to comply with the time limitations set forth in § 15.42, the envelope containing a written request and the letter itself should both clearly indicate that the subject is a Freedom of Information Act request.

(c) The request shall be accompanied by an agreement to pay a fee to be determined in accordance with § 15.14. Under the circumstances enumerated in § 15.18, the Department may refuse to furnish records before receipt of the appropriate fee. A requester may specify a limit for fees, above which the requester is not willing to pay without advance consultation with the Department.

(d) Copies of available records shall be made as promptly as possible. Copying service shall be limited to not more than 10 copies of any single page. Records which are published or available for sale need not be reproduced.

[40 FR 48123, Oct. 14, 1975, as amended at 60 FR 11904, Mar. 3, 1995]

### § 15.42 Time limitations.

(a) Upon receipt of a request for records, the appropriate office will determine within ten working days whether to comply with such requests. The office will either agree to provide the requested documents, or will notify the requester, in writing, of an adverse determination, the reasons therefor, and the right to appeal the denial to the:

(1) General Counsel, with respect to a denial issued by the Office of the Executive Secretariat or by the offices in which there is a Field Assistant General Counsel; or

(2) Field Assistant General Counsel, with respect to a denial issued by the Field Offices.

(b) When a request for records is misdirected by the requester, the office receiving the request shall:

(1) Promptly refer it to the appropriate office; and

(2) Advise the requester that the time of receipt by the appropriate office will